MINUTES OF THE

Sixty-Fifth Annual Session

OF THE

North River Baptist Association.

HELD WITH

Union Grove Baptist Church,

FAYETTE COUNTY, ALA.

SEPTEMBER 23, 24 and 25, 1899

OFFICERS.

ELD. JAMES HILTON, MODERATOR. Nauvoo, Ala.

J. S. WATTS, CLERK, ... Oakman, Ala.

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The next Session to be held with Pleasant Grove Church, Walker County, Ala., commencing Tuesday before the Fourth Sunday in September, 1900.

OAKMAN, ALA.:
E. J. Sivley, Printer.

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ORDER OF BUSINESS.

1. Devotional Exercises.
2. Read Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum.
3. Presentation of Letters from the Churches.
4. Election of Officers.
5. Call for Petitionary Letters.
6. Invite Ministers not Delegates to seats.
7. Receive Correspondence.
8. Return Correspondence.
9. Appoint special Committees:
    1. On Religious Exercises.
    2. On Documents and Requests.
    3. On Nominations.
    4. On Finance.
10. Call for report of Standing Committees:
    1. On Sunday Schools.
    2. Report of Superintendents of Sunday School Districts.
    3. On Young People's Union.
    4. On Temperance.
    5. On State Missions.
    6. On Home Missions.
    7. On Foreign Missions.
    8. On Denominational Education.
    9. On Religious Literature.
    10. On Orphans' Home.
    11. On Prayer and Prayer Meetings.
    12. On Aged and Infirm Ministers.
11. Report of Treasurer.
12. Appoint Treasurer.
13. Call for Report of Special Committees:
    1. On Documents and Requests.
    2. On Nominations.
    3. On Finance.
14. Report of Executive Committee.
15. Appoint Standing Committees.
16. Miscellaneous Business.
17. Read Minutes, Call Roll and Adjourn.

PROCEEDINGS.

The Sixty-fifth Annual Session of the North River Baptist Association met with Union Grove Church, Fayette county, Alabama, on Saturday, September 23, 1899.

The body was called to order by J. H. Longcrier. Bro. James Hilton was elected Moderator pro tem.

Devotional exercises conducted by Bro. J. H. Longcrier.

Reading Constitution, Articles of Faith and Rules of Decorum was dispensed with.

PRESENTATION OF LETTERS FROM THE CHURCHES.

Brethren L. A. Morris and J. F. Appling were appointed to read the letters.

LIST OF CHURCHES AND DELEGATES.

Bethabara—N. H. Harbin, R. M. Stewart and W. O. Brown.

Bethlehem—M. Nelson and J. M. Ausborn.

Bethel—James Wilcutt.

Berry Station—J. M. Davis.

Carbon Hill—C. M. South.

Coal City—R. V. Killgore, E. W. Shepherd and J. R. Sartain.

Jasper—J. H. Longcrier, L. A. Morris, J. A. Huggins, J. F. Appling and C. C. Wright.

Lebanon—A. Killgore, J. T. Jones, J. T. Earnest, T. B. Randolph and G. W. Thacker.

Liberty Grove—C. Richardson.

Liberty—James Hilton.

Mt. Zion—N. Thacker.

Mt. Joy—R. A. Baker and H. G. Amerson.

Mt. Carmel—Samp Lockhart and Dennis Douglass.

New Hope—F. M. McKey and Rufus Mullenax.

Oakman—J. S. Watts, T. J. Creel, S. W. Vice and J. B. Sides.

Pleasant Grove—W. F. Sides, J. E. Grace and J. B. Grace.

Providence—S. E. Walton and W. M. Watts.

Pleasant Field—Jas. T. Grace and C. C. Miner.

Parrish—J. H. Robison.

Samaria—R. M. Rice, F. C. Danniel and R. F. Sumner.

Sulphur Springs—W. P. Earnest, J. E. Killgore.

Union Grove—L. H. Baker, J. N. Cannon, W. W. Garrison and J. W. Gammon.

The Association was permanently organized by electing (by acclamation) James Hilton Moderator and J. S. Watts Clerk.

Received petitionary letter and delegates from Gamble Mines: J H. Freeman and Price Lollar.

Invited visiting ministers who were not delegates to seats, and Brethren Hyle Key and F. H. Watkins were received.

On motion suspended the regular order to hear the Associational sermon, which was preached by Bro. F. H. Watkins. Subject: "And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him," Judges 16, 20.

Adjourned for dinner.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2 P. M. met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional exercises was called to order.

The Moderator announced the following committees:

On Religious Exercises—H. G. Amerson, M. Melson and the deacons of Union Grove Church.

On Documents and Requests—L. A. Morris, N. H. Harbin and W, F. Sides.

On Nominations—J. F. Appling, N. H. Harbin and R. F. Sumner.

On Finance—J. F. Appling, C. M. South and S. E. Walton.

Received correspondence:

From Tuscaloosa Association—Cornelius Sumner.

Returned correspondence:

New River Association—R. A. Baker and H. G. Amerson.

Harmony Grove Association—C. M. Center, W. W. Garrison, J. W. Gammon, R. A. Baker, N. H. Harbin and J. M. Cannon.

Tuscaloosa Association—James Kimbrell, Wm. Patton, Jno. N. Cannon and L. H. Baker.

On motion reports on Sunday Schools were deferred for the present.

Report on Baptist Young People's Union was read by J. H. Longcrier, and after being spoken to by J H. Longcrier, J. R. Sartain, F. H. Watkins and others, was adopted.

REPORT ON BAPTIST YOUNG PEOPLE'S UNION.

We, your Committee on Baptist Young People's Union, find that there are only three unions in the Association, all of which

have been either organized or reorganized within the past few months. These unions are located at Jasper, Carbon Hill and Oakman, and seem to be doing very good work. We have seen that a great many of our young people will become members of the B. Y. P. U. and engage in its work when they will not readily work in direct unison with the church. In this way they gradually become active and useful members of the church. We recommend that as far as it is practical B. Y. P. U.'s be organized and maintained in all the churches of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

W. A. WATTS, Chairman.

On motion it was ordered that all the reports on Missions be read on Sunday and discussed jointly.

Committee on Temperance being absent, the Moderator appointed L. A. Morris, T. J. Creel and R. M. Rice to prepare a report.

Report on Religious exercises:

J. H. Longcrier to preach Sunday at 11 A. M., and F. H. Watkins at Mt. Joy Saturday night.

Report on Denominational Education was read by L. A. Morris.

On motion, speeches on the above report were limited to ten minutes.

Adjourned until 9 A. M. Sunday.

SUNDAY.

MORNING SESSION.

At 9 A. M. met pursuant to adjournment, and after devotional exercises, was called to order.

W. B. Crumpton, Corresponding Secretary State Board of Missions, was received.

On motion one hour was given to the discussion of Denominational Education. Was spoken to by W. B. Earnest, W. B. Crumpton and others, then adopted.

On motion, the clerk was authorized to abbreviate the Report on Denominational Education.

REPORT ON DENOMINATIONAL EDUCATION.

We take it for granted that by the words "Denominational Education" is meant education or information on the doctrines, teachings and practices of our denomination, together with some knowledge of its progress, work and history.

That it is important for us to be well informed on the doctrines, teachings and practices of our denomination, and know something of its history, progress and work, is quite obvious.

As Paul says, "We should be ever ready to give a reason for the faith that is in us."

We cannot study the doctrines and teachings of our denomination without being strengthened in our Christianity and becoming more loyal to our church.

We cannot be loyal and zealous to that cause of which we are ignorant, and we cannot fail to become interested in a just and righteous cause on which we are well informed.

Let us study to know the doctrines and teachings of our beloved denomination; and let us study to inform ourselves as much as we can on the history of our church, and learn of the noble work and progress it has made and is making, and thus be inspired to more zeal in our church work.

We should all take and read the Alabama Baptist and the Southern Baptist, published at Memphis, Tenn., and the Birmingham Baptist, published at Birmingham, Ala., and all other denominational history and literature we well can; and last, but not least, let us read prayerfully and thoughtfully each day that Book of books, dictated by Him who spoke as never man spake, and written by men who wrote as the Holy Spirit moved them; for in this sacred Book, without embellishment, without comment, without adding to or taking from, are found lessons full of wisdom and of truth We think every doctrine and teaching of our denomination to be true.

We ought not to forget our denominational schools in the State. The Judson, of Marion, for the education of our girls, a school now excellent for proficiency along all the lines of work; also Howard College at East Lake, for our boys. The Howard is now out of debt, SHE IS FREE, and is now under the management of one of the best corps of teachers it has had for years.

Brethren, we are looking forward for the greatest opening of the Howard this coming session that has ever been in her history.

Ten facts about Howard College:

1. Howard College was established in 1841. Its graduates are among the recognized leaders in professional and business life.

2. Its present location, East Lake, is one of the most beautiful, healthful and moral suburbs of Birmingham. While the college enjoys the quiet of the country, it is connected with the city by electric cars.

3. The following new improvements have been added within the last year: Hot and cold baths, a well-equipped gymnasium, patent single desks for all recitation rooms.

4. An experienced matron will be employed next session to preside over the dining-room, look after the preparation of special dishes for the sick, etc. This will insure satisfactory service in the "Mess Hall."

5. The policy of Howard is to give a broad and thorough education at the least possible cost to the students for such grade of work. The increase in the number of courses offered is for the purpose of meeting, as far as possible, the different demands of different students, that each may get what he needs to prepare him for his chosen vocation.

6. Within the last six months, on account of new life, new industries, new capital, our college property, with all other in and around Birmingham, has enhanced in value, being worth more to-day than at any time since location of the college at East Lake.

7. The proper development of the student's mental, moral and physical being, and his preparation for usefulness, happiness and success in life, are considered the true ends of education.

8. Military discipline is practiced as means of developing physical strength and gracefulness, politeness, deference, obedience and attention But above the military is the controlling power of ethical influences, the doctrine of Human Character, by which the student is led to understand his duties to himself, his fellows and his Creator.

9 The Howard students are noted in East Lake and Birmingham for their gentlemanly bearing and upright conduct.

10. During the session of 1899 and 1900 there will be lecture courses on Science, Education, Business and the Professions.

These lectures will be delivered by twenty specialists, whose services have been secured for that purpose, and will be free to the students. This course will be an opportunity seldom enjoyed by the students of any college.

I hope and trust that the day will speedily come when every young man of Alabama will have the glorious opportunity of attending the Howard. All of us who can should support her with our boys.

Now, lastly, let us remember the Seminary located at Louisville, Ky., now directed by her new President, Dr. Mullan, for the further equipment of the ministerial students of the Howard.

Respectfully submitted,

W. B. EARNEST, Chairman.

Report on State Missions was read by J. H. Longcrier.

Home and Foreign Mission Reports of last year were adopted.

The Clerk was authorized to cull the minutes of the Southern Baptist Convention for statistics for both Home and Foreign Mission Reports.

On motion, Bro. W. B. Crumpton was given unlimited time for the discussion of the Reports on Missions. The reports were then adopted.

REPORT ON STATE MISSIONS.

We, your Committee on State Missions, beg to submit the following report:

If there ever was a time in the history of our organized work when the Baptists of Alabama needed to bestir themselves in behalf of the salvation of souls and in the denominational interests of their own State, we belive that time is now. At the next regular meeting of our State Convention will be the first time almost, if not altogether, since we have been organized into a convention, that we will be able to report all of the interests fostered by our denomination in the State out of debt.

During the present year over $38,000 have been raised and paid out on denominational debts. We believe this is only a slight indication of what can be done, if we will only perfect our local organizations, and then put our heads and hearts together in this great common cause. So while we are complimenting ourselves over past successes, let us not forget that our obligations are greatly increased, and that our opportunities to lengthen our stakes and strengthen our cords were never so favorable.

The work of the year has not only strengthened our own faith in the cause, but it has and will continue to give us an advantage which no other denomination has in getting hold of the people. They will not only believe in Baptist principles; they will believe in Baptist zeal. Again, we have advantages in organization and in the general advance in business over the country that have not been ours for some time, if ever before. With Bro. Crumpton, our old secretary, again in charge to superintend the work, and with two assistant secretaries, one in the northern, the other in the southern part of the State, viz. Brothers Sandlin and Preston, we don't see why great improvements should not be made along all lines of our work. We believe our present methods of work to be good, if not the best. We have had for prosecuting this work the Associations that can and will employ and support their own missionaries, while the Board strengthens the weak places, by helping to support the pastors, encourage the work through its agents, and collects funds wherever it can. But while other things are so favorable, there is another fact which deserves our attention. The Board is wholly dependent on the churches for support in this work, and it has no means in hand at present by which to continue in business. Brethren, let us give our attention and our best energies to this the Master's cause. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. LONGCRIER, Chairman.

REPORT ON HOME MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Home Missions report thus: The field of the Home Mission Board covers the entire South and the Island of Cuba, and there is not a State or Territory within its borders in which the Board has not men preaching the Gospel to the desti-

tute. The number of missionaries was 467, which has been increased this year to 653. These missionaries are preaching the Gospel, making religious visits to the sick and needy, establishing Sunday schools, organizing churches, building church houses, and distributing Bibles, Testaments, tracts and other religious literature. Seventeen thousand four hundred and twenty-four weeks of labor were performed by these missionaries; sermons and addresses delivered, 64,718, reaching with the Gospel probably 300,000 people. They added to the churches 12,983 members. They constituted 194 new churches, built 92 houses of worship, improved 252 houses of worship, organized 512 Sunday schools into which they gathered more than 10,000 children, made 108,336 religious visits, put into homes 17,104 Bibles and Testaments, and scattered 1,260,572 pages of tracts. The work of Home Missions demands and should receive, for its own sake, the support of every lover of his country and his Lord. Of all the objects which appeal to Christian hearts, there is surely none more important or more imperative than that of carrying the Gospel to the destitute and neglected of our own land. Upon the prosecution of Home Missions the future welfare of our country very largely depends. The character of the coming American citizen, the growth and efficiency of our denomination, and the extension of the cause of Christ, are all involved in this great enterprise. But there is another reason why we should engage most heartily in Home Missions. This reason grows out of the bearing of Home Mission Work upon the evangelization of the world. Foreign and Home Missions are linked together. The success of that wider enterprise which looks to the redemption of humanity is largely dependent upon the evangelization of our own land. Therefore we should aid and encourage Home Mission Work. Respectfully submitted,

R. F. SUMNER, Chairman.

REPORT ON FOREIGN MISSIONS.

Your Committee on Foreign Missions beg leave to report that from our observations on the subject, we feel that we can state that God has graciously and abundantly blessed the efforts of his people in spreading the joyful news of salvation through a crucified Christ throughout the remotest corners of earth. We rejoice that wherever the glad tidings are proclaimed religious liberty and civilization have taken the place of fanaticism and barbarism. God has blessed the work of Baptist missionaries, although they have often been compelled not only to fight the black idolatry of the nations, but the errors and superstitions of those who under the guise of Christ have sought to delude those who were hungering for the pure Word. We call upon every church in this Association to come to the help of the Lord against the mighty. We can, by our financial aid, willingly made, by God's help, assist in holding up the hands of our noble brethren who are

holding aloft the blood-stained banner of the cross in the darkest portions of the world. We recommend that each church of this Association do take greater interest in this work, and that at our next session a larger number of letters will indicate that this suggestion has been more generally complied with here in Alabama. Something over $109,000 was contributed during the last conventional year. Missionaries in the field, males 35, females 47; number of churches, 100; outstanding stations, 140; baptised during the year, 845; contributions on the field, $7,110.20. Since the Spanish-American war more fields are open; let us go over and occupy them. Respectfully submitted,

H. G. AMERSON, Chairman.

At 11 A. M. a deep spiritual missionary sermon was preached by Bro. J. H. Longcrier to a large and appreciative congregation. Preaching in the grove by Bro. J. R. Sartain.

Public collection for missions, $13.40.

Adjourned until 2:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 2:30 P. M. reassembled in the house. After devotional exercises proceeded to read reports on Sunday Schools.

Report on Sunday Schools was read by J. A. Huggins.

Report of Committee to Organize Sunday Schools was read by J. S. Watts.

The above reports were spoken to by J. H. Longcrier, J. S. Watts, T. J. Creel, J. A. Huggins and others, and then adopted.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE TO ORGANIZE SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

We, your Committee to Organize Sunday Schools in the bounds of this Association, submit the following report: We under the name to organize have done nothing; but the Association having been divided into S. S. districts at its last session, and superintendents appointed over each district, and two of this committee to organize having been appointed superintendents, and it having been made their duty to organize Sunday schools and hold conventions or rallies, we turned the work over to these superintendents. Hence, we do not see the need of both committees; therefore we recommend that this committee be discontinued, and that the S. S. districts remain as they are, and that superintendents be appointed over these districts each year, and that they make reports of their work to the Association and also to the S. S. Convention. Respectfully submitted,

J. S. WATTS, Chairman.

Report on Temperance was read by L. A. Morris.

On motion, the discussion of the above report was laid over till Monday, 9 A. M.

Adjourned.

MONDAY.

Morning Session.

At 9 A. M. met pursuant to adjournment. After devotional exercises was called to order.

Speeches were limited to ten minutes.

Report on Temperance was re-read, and after discussion by L. A. Morris, R. A. Baker. J. R. Sartain, J. H. Longcrier and T. J. Creel, was adopted.

REPORT ON TEMPERANCE.

We, your Committee on Temperance, having been appointed since our arrival on the ground, must submit a brief and imperfect report. We think this subject of greatest importance, and are pleased to note that the Religious press and our Associations and Conventions from the least to the greatest are giving it a constantly increased agitation. And we hope and pray that by by this means and the individual efforts of all of God's people, on all lines and in every way, disapproving, and with heart and soul and body, by word and deed, condemning the liquor traffic, it may be speedily checked and thoroughly broken up, never more to blight a Christian home or hinder a Christian cause. Your committee feel assured that total abstinence is the only safe ground for any one who has the name of Christ upon him For every such one is commanded to depart from iniquity. And that the liquor business in its entirety is iniquitous we are forced to believe, or conclude, by any logical course of reasoning we employ. We do not believe in long reports, but we believe in a long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether to wipe the liquor traffic from the face of the earth. And we believe the Baptist people, who have ever been leaders in great reforms, inspired by the Great I Am, are under this inspiration destined soon to accomplish this great and glorious end. And may all the religious world awaken to the responsibility of the hour, and see the awful consequences of delay, and hasten to help in the grand consummation. L. A. Morris, Chairman.

No report having been prepared on Religious Literature, report of last year was read and adopted.

REPORT ON RELIGIOUS LITERATURE.

We recommend the Southern Baptist lesson helps for our Sunday schools; the Alabama Baptist, Baptist Standard and the Western Recorder for our homes; and the Baptist Union, published at Chicago, and the publications of the Baptist Mission Rooms at Baltimore for our Baptist Young People's Unions. We

are living in an age when the printing press is turning out millions of books annually, good, bad and indifferent. It is a difficult matter for the best informed to select out of this confused mass wholesome reading matter for our young people. They will read something. If we fail to provide the best, they are almost sure to get the worst; for Satan and his angels are more active and energetic in sowing tares than the good are to sow wheat. The Holy Spirit hath said: "The children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light." Luke 16:8. Then it is clearly the duty of Christian parents to occupy the ground first. General Forest was once asked by an admiring lady friend to explain how he managed always to win his battles. The rugged old warrior bluntly replied: "Madam, I got there first with the most men." That is the idea—preoccupation. If we can first store the mind with useful knowledge there will not only be no room for vice, but there will be no taste for it. Let us, then, out of this great abundance of cheap literature, good, bad and indifferent, select the best and store the mind with good and useful knowledge.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. T. GRACE, Chairman.

Brethren W. F. Sides, W. B. Earnest and J. A. Huggins were appointed to prepare a report on Orphans' Home.

Report on Prayer and Prayer-meetings was read by L. H. Baker, and after discussion was adopted.

REPORT ON PRAYER AND PRAYER-MEETINGS.

Dear Brethren: We are needy beings, and God has the blessings we need, and has said that he would be sought unto for those blessings. They are all treasured up in Christ. He says men ought always to pray and faint not. "Ask and ye shall receive, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you." The apostle says "pray all prayers;" the Saviour says "when two or three are gathered together in my name there am I in the midst of them." That promise is the same to-day that it ever was. In view of these promises we think every church ought to have a regular organized prayer-meeting. And we, your committee, recommend that each church that has not a regular prayer-meeting will organize one at the earliest date possible, and report the same with its results to the next meeting of this body. Respectfully submitted,

L. H. BAKER, Chairman.

Report on Aged and Infirm Ministers of last year was adopted:

Your Committee on Aged and Infirm Ministers find none on that list now in the bounds of this Association.

Respectfully submitted,

JAS. HILTON, Chairman.

REPORT ON SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

Your Committee on Sunday Schools beg leave to report as follows:

At the last meeting of this Association, that prince of Sunday school workers, Bro. J. H. McGuire, recommended in his report "That the territory embraced in this Association be, for convenience, divided into four Sunday School Districts, and that in each district there be held annually, or quarterly, a District Sunday School Convention for each district, and that a District Chairman and Secretary be appointed by this Association, whose duty it will be to call and hold said district conventions."

In accordance with this recommendation the following divisions were made, and Superintendents appointed:

First District—Jasper, Samaria, New Prospect, Coal City, Mt. Carmel and Pleasant Grove. W. G. Davis, Superintendent.

Second District—Carbon Hill, Townley, Saragossa, Liberty Grove and Liberty. R. V. Goss, Superintendent.

Third District—Oakman, Bethel, Lebanon, Mt. Zion, Providence, Pleasant Field and Parrish. J. S. Watts, Superintendent.

Fourth District—Berry Station, Bethabara, Bethlehem, Union Grove, Sulphur Springs, Mt. Joy, Oragonia and New Hope. R. A. Baker, Superintendent.

Your committee has heard from the Superintendents of the First, Second and Third Districts, who report schools in every church in their several districts, which is cause for great rejoicing among us all. We have not heard from the Superintendent of the Fourth District, but hope to have a report of his work at this time. We also hope to have reports from all the Superintendents giving fuller details of their work, telling us of their rallies and work generally.

According to previous appointment our annual Sunday School Convention met with the Baptist Church at Carbon Hill. A good programme was carried out, interspersed with good music. There were many good and interesting speeches made, and some most excellent papers read by some of the ladies. The meeting was well attended, mostly by the people of Carbon Hill and vicinity.

All who attended enjoyed the convention greatly, and it is hoped that much good will come from it. However, there were two things which caused some sadness and disappointment:

1st. The absence of delegates from churches in the country. The Sunday School cause can never be carried to that high degree of success which every follower of Christ should desire until all the workers of our Association come together as one man and consecrate their lives to God's cause to be used by Him as He sees fit. If the place of meeting or the time of meeting

is objectionable, or if there is anything else in the way, let's discuss these things in a brotherly spirit and get at that which is best, and not allow our Master's cause to drag.

2nd If we are not mistaken there was only one minister at the convention, and he lived at Carbon Hill. Now we want it distinctly understood that what we state is in no sense in a spirit of criticism, or intended as a discourtesy, but prompted by a desire to do that which will honor and glorify our Master's cause most. When we consider the ignorance of God's word, and that it is through His word only that the people are to be saved, and when saved it must be through the teaching of His word that His followers are to be made strong and effective workers; and when we know that no church can do the work for which it was instituted without the earnest study of God's word; and that 85 out of every 100 who are taken into the church come through the Sunday school, we cannot understand how any Christian can be indifferent to the work. The ministers are the acknowledged leaders of all good work, and the Sunday School workers of our Association must have their help before the work can succeed as it ought.

We should be grateful to God because the Sunday School cause is taking such a hold on the world as was never known before.

Your Chairman had one of the greatest desires of his life gratified in that he was permitted to attend the meeting of the International Sunday School Convention held in Atlanta last April.

The Sunday school is no longer regarded as a place suited to old women and children only. At the Atlanta convention there was not only the best workers from every State in the United States, but also the best workers from foreign countries. There were editors of our biggest daily papers, Congressmen, Senators, Governors, and an ex-member of the President's Cabinet, and the noblest, best and smartest women in our country, and that the world ever saw, who had come together to devise ways and means to further the great Sunday School cause.

There were five hundred children dressed in white who made the sweetest music that will ever be heard this side of Heaven.

And there it was announced that our own State, Alabama, was the first State in the South which had organized all of her counties in the Sunday School work, and she was proudly proclaimed a "Banner State."

Verily, verily, this is a great work we are engaged in, and it is not one that we can take up and lay down as we may feel inclined, for Jesus said: "No man, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the Kingdom of God." Luke 9:62.

W. R. SAWYER, Chairman.

Treasurer's Report read and adopted.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

September 25, 1899.

Balance on hand last year	$1 25
Received from Finance Committee State Missions	8 25
" " " " Home Missions	4 75
" " " " Foreign Missions	11 65
" " " " Orphans' Home	8 10
" " " " for Minutes	24 20
" " " " Association purposes	8 95
" " " " Bro. Harbin	4 45
" Sunday collection for Missions	19 88
" collection for Orphans' Home	16 15
Total receipts	$107 63

Paid Orphans' Home	$24 25
" W. C. Bledsoe for State Missions	28 13
" I. T. Tichenor for Home Missions	4 75
" R. J. Willingham, Foreign Missions	11 65
" Sister Harbin	4 45
" for printing 500 Minutes	25 00
" Clerk	8 95
" paper and postage	45
Total paid out	$107 63

Respectfully submitted,

J. S. WATTS, Treasurer.

Appointed J. S. Watts Treasurer for ensuing year.

On motion the Clerk was authorized to furnish thirty blank letters to the Association and send out to the churches, and $1.15 was raised for that purpose.

REPORT ON DOCUMENTS AND REQUESTS.

We, your Committee on Documents, beg leave to submit the following report: We have seen nothing demanding our attention but the letters from Pleasant Grove and Oregonia churches, the former requesting that our next Annual Session be held at Pleasant Grove Church, and the latter asking for a letter of dismission from our body. We respectfully recommend that both of these requests be granted. L. A. MORRIS, Chairman.

Clerk was authorized to write Oregonia Church a letter of dismission.

On motion, this Association will meet next year on Tuesday before the fourth Sunday in September, 1900, and continue from day to day until the business is finished.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Your Executive Committee beg leave to report: That no active work has been undertaken in the bounds of our territory during the past year.

The question of employing a missionary was taken under consideration, but no satisfactory arrangements with the State Board could be made for doing any permanent work; hence the committee thought it best not to begin a work that would last only for a few weeks at best. We recommend that if the body thinks it necessary to undertake such a work, that arrangements be made for the employment and support of a missionary through your future committee. Respectfully submitted,

J. H. LONGCRIER, Chairman.

REPORT ON FINANCE.

Your Committee on Finance submit the following report:

Received for State Missions	$12 00
" " Home Missions	10 50
" " Foreign Missions	15 33
" " Orphanage	4 60
" " Minutes	27 85
" " Associational purposes	10 25
	$80 53

Credits:

Paid to J. S. Watts for State Missions	$12 00
" " " Home Missions	10 50
" " " Foreign Missions	15 33
" " " Orphanage	4 60
" " " Minutes	27 85
" " " Associational purposes	10 25
	$80 53

Respectfully submitted,

J. F. APPLING, Chairman.

Adjourned until 1:30 P. M.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

At 1:30 P. M. reassembled in the house, and after devotional exercises was called to order.

Report on Orphans' Home read, and after several talks was adopted.

A collection was taken for Orphans' Home, $28.60.

REPORT ON ORPHANS' HOME.

We, your Committee on Orphans' Home, beg leave to submit the following report:

We find at present there are sixty-two orphans as inmates of our Orphans' Home, there having been received since its estab-

lishment 122 children gathered from the various counties of the State. and from the counties, in part, which compose our Association. We find from Walker six, Tuscaloosa nine have been received. We further find that under the very efficient management of our beloved brother, J. W. Stewart, the orphans are not only provided with a home, such things as are necessary to happiness and comfort, but they are, when old enough, placed in school, and in addition are taught, the boys to do farm work and the girls house work. We further find that the management. when requested, and when they find the applicants suitable persons to take and rear children, allow such persons to adopt as their own child one of the children from the Home. We find the Home is in debt to the amount of $1,000. And, brethren, this debt is not all. The howling blasts of winter are almost upon them. Our prayers, our sympathies nor our talks cannot clothe nor feed these children who have been so unfortunate as to be left alone in the world. Will you not help?

Respectfully submitted,

W. F. SIDES, Chairman.

REPORT ON NOMINATIONS.

To preach Associational Sermon—Wm. Patton. Alternate, L. H. Baker.

To preach the Missionary Sermon (when called for)—James Hilton.

Delegates to State Convention—R. A. Baker, G. D. O'Rear, W. B. Appling, L. H. Baker, A. Killgore, Wm. Patton, J. F. Appling, J. M. Williams, A. L. Files and S. Lacy. Alternates, H. G. Amerson, R. V. Goss, S. W. Vice and G. G. Bagwell.

To Southern Baptist Convention—J. H. Longcrier. Alternate, W. R. Sawyer.

J. F. APPLING, Chairman..

The Moderator announced Standing Committees, to-wit:

On Sunday Schools—S. W. Vice, J. S. Watts, H. A. Key. Superintendents S. S. Districts: 1st District, W. G. Davis; 2nd District, R. V. Goss; 3d District, S. W. Vice; 4th District, R. A. Baker.

On Young People's Union—W. R. Sawyer, J. S. Watts, Alvin Douglass and Wilburn Manasco

On Temperance—L. H. Baker, J. W. Bagwell and James T. Jones.

On State Missions—S. Lacy, W. G. Davis and C. C. Wright.

On Home Missions—A. A. Sides, W. P. Smith and E. Brown.

On Foreign Missions—J. H. Longcrier, W. F. Sides and R. F. Sumner.

On Denominational Education—G. D. O'Rear, J. C. Danniel and G. G. Bagwell.

On Religious Literature—J. I. McCollum, R. V. Goss and Price Smith.

On Orphans' Home—J. C. Danniel, L. A. Morris and C. C. Wright.

On Prayer and Prayer-meetings—C. C. Collins, C. Richardson and Dr. L. P. Dewese.

On Aged and Infirm Ministers—Wm. Patton, James Kimbrell, L. H. Baker and A. Killgore.

Executive Committee—J. H. Longcrier, G. D. O'Rear, W. F. Sides, J. F. Appling and R. V. Goss.

REPORT OF SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

Held its last session with Carbon Hill Church, July 29 and 30, 1899. The Sunday schools were not all represented, but we think it was the best convention we have ever had. The next convention will be held with Oakman Baptist Church, commencing on Saturday before the fourth Sunday in July, 1900

Executive Committee—G. D. O'Rear, S. Lacy and J. P. Mooney.

Committee on Programme—W. R. Sawyer, S. Lacy and J. S. Watts.

W. G. Davis, President.

J. S. Watts, Secretary.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The following resolutions were adopted:

1. Resolved, That the North River Baptist Association in session seriously miss our beloved brother and former Moderator, J. H. McGuire.

2. That we sorrowfully lament his death, but bow with humble submission to the will and action of our all-wise and beneficent Heavenly Father who has taken him home.

3. That a page in the minutes of this session be given to his memory.

Respectfully submitted,

J. H. Longcrier.

Resolved, That we extend our hearty and sincere thanks to the brethren and citizens of this community for the hospitable way in which they have entertained this Association.

J. H. Longcrier.

Resolved, That the Chair return its thanks to the members of the North River Baptist Association for their kindness, good order and agility in aiding the Chair in its duties.

James Hilton.

The body tendered thanks to the Moderator and Clerk for their faithful services during this session.

On motion it was decided to supplement the Associational fund and make it $15, and that the Clerk be allowed that amount for his services.

Supplement raised, $4.75.

Reading minutes was dispensed with except roll-call and marking absentees.

After singing and taking the parting hand, the Association adjourned to meet with Pleasant Grove Church, Walker county, one mile from King's switch, on the K. C. M. & B. R. R., on Tuesday before the 4th Sunday in September, 1900.

JAMES HILTON, Moderator.

J. S. WATTS, Clerk.

LIST OF ORDAINED MINISTERS

WITH MEMBERSHIP IN NORTH RIVER BAPTIST ASSOCIATION.

	NAME.	POSTOFFICE.	NO. OF CHURCHES PASTOR OF.
1	L H Baker	Toledo	1
2	J. T. Jones	Corona	2
3	James Hilton	Nauvoo	3
4	C. C. Collins	Nauvoo	1
5	J. H. Longcrier	Jasper	1
6	J. R. Sartain	Oakman	1
7	H. A. Key	Parrish	1
8	R. A Baker	Toledo	1
9	J. I. McCollum	Carbon Hill	1
10	Wm. Patton	Patton	2
11	W. P. Smith	Saragossa	1

IN MEMORY OF

BROTHER J. H. McGUIRE,

Who was Born Sept. 29th, 1848,

and Died June 10th, 1899.

A Member of the

Jasper Baptist Church,

and former Moderator of

The North River Association.

No More on Earth,
But forever in Heaven.

Statistics of North River Baptist Association—1899.

CHURCH.	COUNTY.	PASTOR.	CLERK.	CLERK'S POSTOFFICE.	Membership Last Reported.	INCREASE BY				DECREASE BY				Present Membership.	SUNDAY SCHOOL.			Preaching Sabbaths.	Reports Prayer Meet'g.	Reports Revival
						Baptism.	Letter.	Voucher.	Restoration	Letter.	Exclusion.	Erasure.	Death.		Officers and Teachers.	Pupils.	Superintendent's Name and Postoffice.			
Bethabara	Fayette	G. W. Baker	W. A. Kimbrell.	Berry Station	34	10	5	..	1	1	1	..	..	48	..	..	Not given	4	..	1
Bethlehem	Tuscaloosa.	L. H. Baker	J. S. Jones	Berry Station	43	..	1	..	..	2	1	..	..	40	..	..	Not given	2	..	..
Bethel	Walker.	J. T. Jones	Jas. Willcut	Oakman	..	7	..	..	3	6	..	..	..	25	..	..	O. G. Kilgore, Oakman	2	1	1
Berry Station	Fayette	A. Kilgore	B. F. Freeman	Berry Station	27	..	..	..	..	4	..	..	..	21	..	..	Not given	2	..	..
Carbon Hill	Walker.	J, I. McCollum.	J. W. McCartey	Carbon Hill	95	3	6	..	1	..	..	11	..	94	..	..	A. P. Smith, Carbon Hill	1, 2	..	..
Coal City	Walker	J. R. Sartain	J. W. Randolph	Jasper	70	2	5	..	..	1	..	..	..	76	7	48	J. W. Randolph, Jasper.	4	..	..
Gamble Mines	Walker.	Jas. Hilton	Jno. H. Freeman	Gamble Mines	..	3	5	..	..	..	..	..	..	21	..	..	Not given	1	..	..
Jasper	Walker.	J. H. Longcrier	J. F. Appling	Jasper	202	8	9	..	3	18	3	..	8	193	11	90	S. Lacy, Jasper	1,2,3,4	1	2
Lebanon	Fayette	A. Kilgore	E.V. Smallwood	Patton	..	11	5	..	..	..	2	1	..	41	6	19	T. B. Randolph, Patton	3	1	..
Liberty Grove	Walker.	C. C. Collins	L. L. McCullars	Saragossa	63	6	6	..	..	1	..	..	1	73	..	..	Not given	3	..	1
Liberty	Walker.	Jas. Hilton	L. O. Howell	Nauvoo	49	1	7	..	..	2	..	..	..	55	6	50	W. L. Blackwell, Nauvoo	4	..	..
Mt. Zion	Walker.	Jas. T. Jones	N. Thacker	Patton	68	3	1	..	..	..	1	..	1	70	..	..	Jas. Patton, Patton	2	..	1
Mt. Joy	Fayette	Wm. Patton	H. G. Amerson.	Toledo	65	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	64	..	..	Not given	3	..	..
Mt. Carmel	Walker.	J. W. Rogers	Jno. T Morris	Cordova	55	80	26	..	1	8	2	..	1	136	8	75	Z. J. Amerson, Cordova	1, 2	..	1
New Hope	Tuscaloosa.	Jas. T. Jones	E. H. Bagwell	Wiley	53	..	2	..	..	2	..	..	1	52	..	..	Not given	3	..	..
New Prospect	Walker.	Not represented			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..
Oakman	Walker.	F. H. Watkins	J. S. Watts	Oakman	131	5	2	..	2	9	4	..	3	124	8	60	J. S. Watts, Oakman	4	2	1
Oregonia	Tuscaloosa.	I. L. Collins	J. F. Mackey	Crump	..	6	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	51	..	..		2	..	1
Pleasant Grove	Walker.	Wm. Patton	W. F. Sides	Oakman	186	1	..	..	1	14	1	..	1	172	..	..	Not given	2	1	..
Providence	Walker.	Jas. Hilton	W. M. Watts	Oakman	99	1	2	..	..	11	1	..	1	89	4	55	S. E. Walton, Oakman	3	1	1
Pleasant Field	Walker.	Wm. Patton	B. F. Sides	Oakman	31	6	2	..	..	2	3	..	1	33	..	..	J. P. Handley, Oakman	4	..	1
Parrish	Walker.	H. A. Key	J. H. Robinson.	Parrish	..	20	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	34	..	..	Not given	1	..	1
Saragossa	Walker.	Not represented			..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..		..	..	..
Samaria	Walker.	W. P. Smith	R. F. Sumner	Cordova	116	11	..	..	..	4	2	..	..	120	..	..		4	..	1
Sulphur Springs	Fayette	A. Kilgore	J. E. Kilgore	Corona	30	8	4	3	..	5	..	..	..	35	..	..		4	2	1
Townley	Walker.	Q. D. Haney	R. L. Fike	Townley	74	2	..	..	1	1	..	..	2	74	3	30	D. A. Keton, Townley	1	..	1
Union Grove	Fayette	R. A. Baker	Sheph'rd Wilcut	Toledo	36	3	5	..	..	3	3	..	..	38	6	31	L. H. Baker, Toledo	1	..	1
Totals					1527	197	100	3	13	94	26	12	26	1779	59	458			9	16

Financial Exhibit of North River Baptist Association for the Year 1899.

CHURCHES.	MISSIONS.				MINISTERIAL EDUCATION.	ORPHANS' HOME.	MINUTES.	HOME EXPENSES.			VALUE OF PROPERTY.
	STATE. AND DEBT.	HOME.	FOREIGN.	ASSOCIATIONAL.				PASTOR'S SALARY.	OTHER EXPENSES.	POOR, FUEL, SUNDAY SCHOOLS, ETC.	
Bethabara	$ 50	$ 1 45	$ 50	$ 25	....	....	$ 95	$ 10 00	$ 10 00	....	$ 200 00
Bethlehem	....	....	....	....	....	....	95	10 15	....	....	.....
Bethel	....	....	....	....	....	....	75	....	....	....	.....
Berry Station	1 45	25	....	....	....	....	1 45	18 63	....	....	.....
Carbon Hill	2 00	2 00	1 00	50	....	4 50	1 50	70 75	18 80	$30 00	700 00
Coal City	....	....	....	55	....	....	1 50	33 52	....	....	.....
Gamble Mines	....	....	....	50	....	....	1 00	....	....	....	.....
Jasper	171 00	37 13	35 12	2 50	$5 00	123 60	3 50	610 00	138 07	63 15	2000 00
Lebanon	....	....	50	50	....	....	25	....	....	....	.....
Liberty Grove	2 00	1 00	....	....	....	2 00	1 00	29 08	....	....	.....
Liberty	....	....	....	50	...	....	1 00	23 40	7 50	....	200 00
Mt. Zion	....	....	2 00	....	....	....	1 00	21 05	....	....	.....
Mt. Joy	....	....	....	....	....	....	80	28 01	....	....	.....
Mt. Carmel	....	....	....	50	....	35	1 35	....	....	....	300 00
New Hope	50	....	....	50	....	....	70	....	....	....	.....
New Prospect	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....
Oakman	6 00	6 00	6 00	1 50	....	....	1 50	150 00	41 00	....	1500 00
Oregonia	....	....	95	10	....	1 00	1 25	....	....	....	.....
Pleasant Grove	....	....	1 63	1 00	....	....	2 00	....	....	....	.....
Providence	....	....	....	....	....	....	50	41 40	....	....	.....
Pleasant Field	....	....	....	....	....	....	1 00	....	....	....	.....
Parrish	....	....	....	50	....	....	1 00	....	....	....	.....
Saragossa	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	.....
Samaria	....	....	....	60	....	1 25	2 00	30 83	....	....	.....
Sulphur Springs	1 50	1 50	2 00	25	....	....	1 00	36 97	....	....	.....
Townley	50	50	50	50	....	2 25	1 25	....	....	....	300 00
Union Grove	....	....	75	....	....	....	60	17 47	3 00	....	500 00
Collect'ns at Ass'n	....	....	....	....	....	28 60	....	....	....	....	.....
Totals	$225 45	$40 83	$50 95	$10 75	$5 00	$163 55	$29 80	$1131 26	$218 37	$93 15	$5700 00